



InfoTech News

February 9, 2000

Information Technology Resource Management Council (ITRMC) Vol. 4 Issue 1

IDANET: Digital Telecommunication Initiative Underway

Planning began in September, 1999 for the **IDANET Project**, a major new effort to establish a shared statewide digital telecommunication infrastructure for the State of Idaho.

The Project is a move to upgrade services by providing high speed digital bandwidth capabilities statewide. The state hopes to leverage its purchasing power by aggregating the needs of state agencies, K-12 and higher education, to obtain greater bandwidth at lower costs.

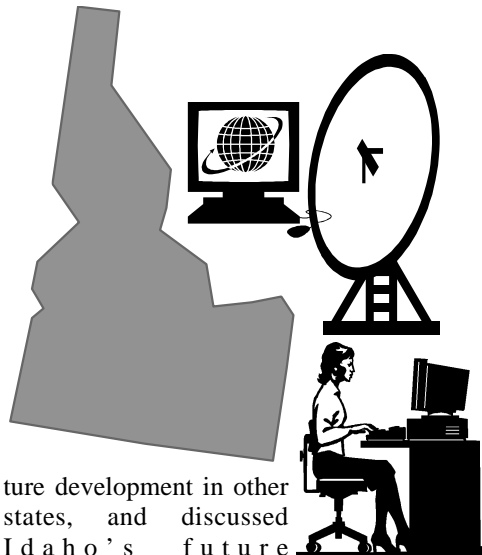
A digital infrastructure would equalize learning opportunities for private citizens due to enhanced electronic services in rural as well as urban areas, and the state could function as an "anchor tenant," potentially stimulating economic development.

State agencies could benefit from a statewide digital infrastructure through increased effectiveness of agency management and training, cost efficiencies, shared maintenance costs, and the potential for the development and use of new and innovative technology.

A User Work Group has been formed to begin the process of developing a request-for-proposal for a statewide telecommunication contract. The RFP is expected to be finalized by mid-February, 2000, with contract signing estimated by July 31, 2000, followed by a phased implementation process.

The State is designing a "needs based" RFP as opposed to predetermining the type of technology to be used. The digital infrastructure may require a joint effort by several vendors utilizing multiple technological solutions.

In September 1999, the User Group brought together state agency leaders from the Departments of Administration, Health and Welfare, Labor, Transportation, Commerce, Judiciary and Fish and Game, K-12 and higher education, Lottery Commission, and Albertson's Foundation. The group reviewed current state networks, looked at telecom-munication infrastruc-



ture development in other states, and discussed Idaho's future telecommunication needs.

IT managers were appointed by the User Group to join a Technical User Work Group.

The Technical User Group met several times between September and December, 1999 to discuss specific issues and concerns related to the development of the RFP. The IT managers plan to prepare a state Operational Management Plan, defining how the state will integrate current networks into the new infrastructure and addressing concerns such as circuit priorities, network conflicts, problem resolution and capacity planning.

Another work group, the Providers, included telecommunications vendors who gathered to review the project in October, 1999 and discuss topics of service improvement scope and costs, business strategies, current state networks, telecom approaches of other states, and vendor issues **(Continued on page 4)**

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related to the RFP. The Providers met again in December, 1999 to discuss topics of contract duration, voice traffic, security, protocols

***Idaho Ranked 9th in Nation
for Electronic Commerce***
(see story page 3)

Access Idaho Will Improve Web Access

Access Idaho, a project designed to streamline access to state government electronic services and information, has begun taking shape.

In a contract signed on December 9, 1999, the state established a public-private partnership with Idaho Information Consortium (IIC) to provide gateway or "portal" services.

IIC will work collaboratively with agencies on re-designing the State Home Page so that citizens can easily navigate from there to all the agency web sites. Individual agencies will have the opportunity to work closely with IIC in developing specific On-line applications.

Enhanced web access will complement the expansion of On-line government services to citizens, increasing overall efficiencies and helping to eliminate end-user web search confusion and duplication of services by agencies. For further information, contact Bill Farnsworth at 332-1878.

Y2K Success due to Agency Collaboration

"Although the public perception of the massive Y2K remediation undertaken by governments, business, and utilities may now appear as too easy, the magnitude of the effort should not be overlooked," ITRMC Chairman Pam Ahrens said in a January, 2000 Y2K press release.

Ahrens credited the state's successful transition to the Year 2000 to the cooperation and coordination between Idaho state agencies, local government, business and the Council.

"Because of the collaboration and cooperation by state agencies, city and county government, and the business community, **(Continued on page 4)** **(Y2K Continued from middle column)** singular, critical issue."

Council Update: Recent Meetings

At the **December 15, 1999** meeting of the Information Technology Resource Management Council (ITRMC), it was reported that all Y2K "**Mission Critical**" Projects (those related to services affecting public safety or state finances) were 100 percent complete.

A press conference was held following the meeting to announce statewide readiness for the year 2000 transition.

Other highlights of the meeting included Council approval of revisions to policy **#1997-01, Information Technology**, and a discussion of the **Draft Policy on Standardization** of Network Operating Systems, E-mail and Desktop Suites. ITRMC members viewed a draft outline of a state "**E-Government Strategy**," slated for review by the Electronic Commerce Work Group in February, 2000.

A report on **Access Idaho** included a presentation by **Idaho Information Consortium (IIC)**, who will be providing gateway or "portal" services to the state and working with the agencies on developing specific E-Government applications.

On the topic of **Electronic Commerce**, J.D. Williams presented a slide show utilizing information he gathered from a recent meeting of the NECCC (National Electronic Commerce Coordinating Committee).

The Council also heard an update of activities related to the **IDANET Telecommunications Initiative**. A statewide Circuit Inventory is being completed by all agencies and educational institutions in preparation for the development of a telecommunication services RFP, expected to be ready by mid-February, 2000.

At the **October 7, 1999** meeting, **Y2K Preparations** were a major topic of discussion as the Council heard a report that all state agencies had completed **Y2K Business Continuity Plans**. Representatives of public utilities made statements during a panel discussion on Y2K preparations, and the Bureau of Disaster Services (BDS) presented a report describing the scope of activities for a



Major ITRMC Accomplishments Listed

Throughout 1999, significant progress was made by the ITRMC in fulfilling its purpose (as stated in House Bill 661) of improving the efficiency and productivity of state and local government, assisting the state in promoting, developing and diversifying its economy, encouraging public access to government information and enhancing lifelong educational and training opportunities.

Major ITRMC accomplishments of 1999 include:

- Monitored agency **Y2K planning, preparedness and public awareness activities for the Year 2000 Transition**
- Formed a **Public Safety Committee** to coordinate city, county and state Y2K planning
- Supported the development of a **Statewide Digital Telecommunication Infrastructure (IDANET Project)**
- Developed a State of Idaho **Electronic Commerce Plan/E-Government Strategy**
- Established an **Internet Portal Services Contract for Access Idaho**, a plan to enhance web access to government On-line services and information (E-Government)
- Adopted an **Information Security Policy**
- Developed a policy for **Standardization** of state agency E-mail, Network Operating Systems, and Desktop Suites
- Established a statewide **GIS (Geographic Information Systems) Coordinator** Position on the Project Team
- Put in place contracts for **Document Management** and **Higher Education GIS Software**
- Continued oversight of **ITTP Employee Training Program**, with addition of a web-based training option, ITTP On-Line.

statewide **Y2K Public Awareness Campaign**. The BDS also informed the Council about planned web-site reporting scheduled for December 31, 1999 to January 4, 2000, as part of the Federal Emergency Management System (**FEMA**) National reporting structure. The Council also conducted a brief review and update on **ITRMC Policies**.

On **September 1, 1999**, a press release was issued as the kickoff for a "**Countdown 2000**" public awareness campaign; the Council viewed a Y2K State Employee Information Bulletin; **Idaho Public Television** gave a brief report related to digital television conversion plans; and, the Division of Human Resources updated the Council on **IT Recruitment**.

July 21, 1999, the Council heard presentations on the Department of Land's use of **Geographic Information Systems (GIS)** technology for the development of a statewide Lands Records System; **Idaho Public Television's** Conversion Plan for Digital TV; **Western Governor's University** On-line training programs; and Y2K preparations by public schools.

The Council approved a **Y2K Mid-Year Status Report**, which was forwarded to the Governor's office. An update was given on a meeting of the Electronic Commerce Work Group where (Continued on page 4)

ITRMC Members

Chairman: Pam Ahrens

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Judiciary Appointment:

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Senator Clint Stennett, Ketchum,
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Rep. Bert C. Marley, McCammon,
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E-Government Strategies Expand On-Line Services to Citizens

Plans to enhance web access to On-line government information and services are outlined in a new State of Idaho "Electronic Government Strategy."

The Strategy is a single page document describing the basic premises and strategic direction the state plans to take in furthering the use of E-Government.

Major areas addressed by the strategy include use of a "portal" or gateway for access to services, improved digital connectivity, training, manageability, security, privacy and infrastructure coordination.

The draft document is a revised and simplified version of a Draft Electronic Commerce Plan, which was developed and discussed by the ITRMC Electronic Commerce Work Group during 1999.

The Strategy document has been distributed to the EC Work Group, and

will be reviewed at its next meeting in February, 2000.

A Department of Administration Strategy Work Group was formed in September, 1999 and has been meeting monthly to discuss ideas and directions for the development of E-Government.

The group includes representatives from the Department of Administration, Division of Information Technology and Communication Services, Division of Purchasing and the ITRMC Project Team.

The Strategy Group has begun planning an E-Government "Boot Camp" for the spring of 2000. "Boot Camp" topics will focus on Electronic Government issues and dissemination of information to state agency directors, legislative leaders and agency IT managers. For more information, please contact Pat Wynn, at 332-1827.

Idaho Ranked 9th in Nation for EC

The State of Idaho has been ranked among the top ten states in the nation for progressing in the area of Electronic Commerce. Idaho's positive ranking was listed in a recent article published in Government Technology magazine.

The January 2000 issue of the magazine highlighted results from a **Statewide Digital States Survey** following the technology progress and achievements being made by all 50 states.

Idaho was ranked 9th in the nation when results were calculated for Part 1 of the survey in the category of E-Commerce and Business regulation.

Results of the survey indicated that Idaho tied with the State of Michigan, earning 76 points out of a possible 100. The State of Georgia ranked number one with 91 points, followed by Alaska, with 88 points, and Maryland, Kentucky, Washington, Kansas, and Illinois all scoring 82 points and all

tied for 3rd place; Illinois, 79 points, followed by Idaho and Michigan.

Idaho will be participating later this year in three additional portions of the Electronic Commerce survey, which will cover the areas of Law Enforcement and the Courts, Social Services, Digital Democracy, Management and Education.

Project Team Adds GIS Coordinator

Liza Fox joined the ITRMC Project Team on January 24, 2000 as statewide Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Coordinator.

The GIS position was approved by the 1998 legislature.

Ms. Fox will work closely with state agencies, local government, the private sector, and with a federal GIS manager to assure the consistent application of GIS technology.

(IP, ATM, etc.) and topologies (copper, fiber, wireless, etc.), new technology development, economic development and financial concerns.

The initial draft of the RFP is currently being reviewed by the Technical Group. Release of the RFP will be followed by a 90 day vendor response period and 30 day evaluation period. Proposals are expected by the end of April, 2000. (For more information, contact Miles Browne at 332-1875)

EDITOR'S NOTE: Cindy Siddoway has resigned her position on the ITRMC as Rural Interests Representative, due to her election as president of a national organization.

Year 2000

ITRMC Meeting Dates

NOTE: Council will meet every other month, beginning on:

Tuesday, February 22

1:30 to 4 p.m.

East Conference Room, J.R. Williams Building, 700 West State, Boise, ID

All subsequent meetings will be held on Wednesdays, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m

April 12, June 21, August 16

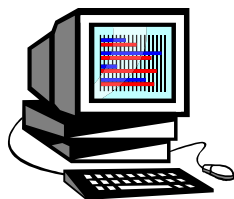
October 11, December 6

Note: All meeting are subject to change
Please check our website for an update
[http:// www.state.id.us/itrmc](http://www.state.id.us/itrmc)

InfoTech News is a newsletter for the Information Technology Resource Management Council. Anyone wishing to contribute information and ideas for future articles; has questions regarding the Council and its Mission; the **ITRMC Project Team** and its activities; or would like to be on the mailing list, please contact:

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New Training Alternative ITTP On-Line

A new, web-based training program, **ITTP On-Line** has been added to the Information Technology Training Program (ITTP), a collaborative effort of the ITRMC Project Team and the Division of Professional-Technical Education.

The on-line alternative to classroom training is designed to cut employee training costs for state agencies.

Twenty-two courses are currently available. Benefits of the training option include self-paced training, potential for increased learning retention, and pre/post course testing.

Classroom Technical Training continues to be offered to state employees utilizing the regular classroom at several training centers in the Boise Area. Class requests are accepted statewide, to ensure full classrooms at minimal cost. For more information, visit the ITTP website at ITTP@adm.state.id.us or call Cliff Green at 334-3216.

(Y2K Continued from page 1)

we were successful in meeting an immense technological challenge," said Ahrens. "The Y2K issue illustrated that state government could take a collective and cooperative approach to resolving a singular, critical issue."

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discussion centered on revisions to the Draft Electronic Commerce Plan. It was announced that the **Document Management Contract** had been awarded to Impact Innovations Group (IIG).

At the **May 26, 1999** meeting, the Council heard a report from the **Legislative Services Office** on a Pilot Project designed to reduce the risk of IT project failures. Local Government updated the Council on Y2K activities, and results of an **IT Asset Summary** identified 81 non-standard network operating systems.

The **April 21, 1999** Council meeting included a review and update of **ITRMC Policies**, and a report on an **ITTP Internet Training Pilot project**.

The State of Idaho invested \$13 to 14 million to assess, repair, upgrade, or replace computer operating and network systems, software applications, and related date-sensitive devices in equipment and facilities. As a comparison, the state of Georgia spent nearly \$322 million.

State IT systems are now more technically equipped to enable the further utilization of electronic government and introduction of on-line services via the Internet to Idaho citizens.

Another benefit of all the Y2K work completed over the past several years is the fact that more state agencies now have a framework in place for crucial business continuity and emergency contingency planning. "We are positioned well for the impending digital revolution within our state's IT infrastructure," said Ahrens.

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